

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of performing preliminary flashing for a camera, the method comprising:

- generating a first readout signal pulse;
- performing preliminary flashing at a time t_1 after the rising edge of the first readout signal;
- generating the rising edge of a second readout signal pulse at a time t_2 that is after time t_1 ;
- collecting optical charges and measuring a first average brightness at time t_2 ;
- ending preliminary flashing at a time t_3 after time t_2 ;
- generating the rising edge of a third readout signal pulse at a time t_4 ;
- collecting optical charges and measuring a second average brightness at time t_4 ; and
- comparing the first average brightness with an upper limit and comparing the second average brightness with a lower limit.

Claim 2 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the rising edge of the readout signal pulses are generated after the falling edge of vertical sync signals.

Claim 3 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the first average brightness is measured exactly at time t_2 .

Claim 4 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the second average brightness is measured exactly at time t_4 .

Claim 5 (currently amended): A method of performing preliminary flashing for a camera, the method comprising:

- generating a first readout signal pulse;
- performing preliminary flashing at a time t_1 after the rising edge of the first readout signal;
- generating the rising edge of a second readout signal pulse at a time t_2 that is after time t_1 ;
- collecting optical charges and measuring a first average brightness at time t_2 ;
- ending preliminary flashing at a time t_3 after time t_2 ;
- generating the rising edge of a third readout signal pulse at a time t_4 ; and

collecting optical charges and measuring a second average brightness at time t4,
wherein

if the first average brightness is greater than an upper limit and the second average brightness is less than a lower limit, then redoing the process, beginning with the first step.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A method of performing preliminary flashing for a camera, the method comprising:

generating a first readout signal pulse;
performing preliminary flashing at a time t1 after the rising edge of the first readout signal;

generating the rising edge of a second readout signal pulse at a time t2 that is after time t1;

collecting optical charges and measuring a first average brightness at time t2;
ending preliminary flashing at a time t3 after time t2;
generating the rising edge of a third readout signal pulse at a time t4; and
collecting optical charges and measuring a second average brightness at time t4,

wherein

if the first average brightness is greater than an upper limit and the second average brightness is greater than a lower limit, then setting main flashing time in accordance with the second average brightness.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A method of performing preliminary flashing for a camera, the method comprising:

generating a first readout signal pulse;
performing preliminary flashing at a time t1 after the rising edge of the first readout signal;

generating the rising edge of a second readout signal pulse at a time t2 that is after time t1;

collecting optical charges and measuring a first average brightness at time t2;
ending preliminary flashing at a time t3 after time t2;
generating the rising edge of a third readout signal pulse at a time t4; and
collecting optical charges and measuring a second average brightness at time t4,

wherein

if the first average brightness is less than an upper limit and the second average brightness is greater than a lower limit, then setting main flashing time in accordance with the average of the first average brightness and the second average brightness.

Claim 8 (original): The method of claim 7, wherein the main flashing time is inversely proportional to the average of the first average brightness and the second average brightness.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A method of performing preliminary flashing for a camera, the method comprising:

- generating a first readout signal pulse;
- performing preliminary flashing at a time t_1 after the rising edge of the first readout signal;
- generating the rising edge of a second readout signal pulse at a time t_2 that is after time t_1 ;
- collecting optical charges and measuring a first average brightness at time t_2 ;
- ending preliminary flashing at a time t_3 after time t_2 ;
- generating the rising edge of a third readout signal pulse at a time t_4 ; and
- collecting optical charges and measuring a second average brightness at time t_4 ,

wherein

if the first average brightness is less than an upper limit and the second average brightness is less than a lower limit, then setting main flashing time in accordance with the first average brightness.

Claim 10 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising:

- performing main flashing.

Claim 11 (original): The method of claim 10, wherein the main flashing is performed a set time after t_3 .

Claim 12 (original): The method of claim 11, wherein the set time is 760 ms.

Claim 13 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the camera is a digital camera.

Claims 14-24 (canceled)

Claim 25 (currently amended): A camera comprising:

- an image sensing portion;
- an image signal processing portion;
- a light emitting device;

a light emission driving portion;
a microcontroller that generates a control signal and transmits the control signal to the light emission driving portion; and
a timing signal generator that generates both a read-out signal and a vertical sync signal and transmits each of the read-out signal and the vertical sync signal to both the image sensing portion and the microcontroller,
wherein the rising edge of each read-out signal is generated after the falling edge of each vertical sync signal, and
wherein the timing signal generator generates a first readout signal pulse;
the light emitting device flashes at a time t1 after the rising edge of the first readout signal;
the timing signal generator generates the rising edge of a second readout signal pulse at a time t2 that is after time t1;
the image sensing portion collects charges and transfers the charges to the image signal processing portion;
the image signal processing portion outputs to the microcontroller an image signal relative to the charges;
the microcontroller measures a first average brightness of the image signal at time t2;
the light emitting device stops flashing at a time t3 after time t2;
the timing signal generator generates the rising edge of a third readout signal pulse at a time t4 and;
the microcontroller measures a second average brightness of the image signal at time t4.

Claim 26 (original): The camera of claim 25, wherein the read-out signal comprises substantially smaller pulses than the vertical sync signal.

Claim 27 (canceled)

Claim 28 (original): The camera of claim 25, wherein the camera is a digital camera.